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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/21/2018
TAGS: ECON PREL PGOV KWBG KPAL IS
SUBJECT: MA'ALE ADUMIM BARRIER REVISION ANNOUNCED

Classified By: EconCouns David Burnett for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(SBU) 1. Prime Minister Olmert and Defense Minister Barak informed the High Court of Justice (HCJ) of their decision to move the route of the separation barrier in the Ma'ale Adumim settlement area to the west, thus adding about 4000 dunams of land to the Palestinian areas to the east of the settlement, according to multiple press reports of a government announcement. This change will not affect the location of the barrier in the area around Yeshuv Keidar, which will remain inside the barrier, ECF's Boaz Karni confirmed to EconOff on August 22.

(C) 2. Post has received a copy of the proposed revised barrier route via ECF from Shlomo Lecker, the attorney representing the Abu Dis city council and residents, who submitted two petitions against the proposed route. ECF's Karni told EconOff that he does not anticipate that Lecker will withdraw these petitions as a result of this government decision. According to the press (Ma'ariv), Ma'ale Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel is furious over the government announcement and has vowed to fight with all means, in the HCJ and in public, against any change to the route of the barrier.

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